Project report of Western Freight Corridor

†2073. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a detailed poject report of Western Freight Corridor has been prepared;

(b) the total number of Special Project Vehicle (SPV) under consideration for it;

(c) the nature of ownership of the Railways in aforesaid SPVs;

(d) the plan of its financing;

(e) the system of freight operation on aforesaid cooridor and where the freight operation on it is proposed to be undertaken by SPVs or the Railways or the investors; and

(f) by when the aforesaid corridor would be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. RITES Ltd. have submitted a Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey (PETS) Report in January, 2007.

(b) to (d) Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Railways has already been set up to implement the project. The Dedicated Freight Corridor Project is proposed to be financed through a mix of internal generation, market borrowings, budgetary and non-budgetary resources including multilateral and bilateral funding such as by Japanese Government under Special Terms of Economic Partnership (STEP) Scheme.

(e) Overall operations including provision of rolling stock will be with Indian Railways.

(f) The project is targeted for completion in abour 5 years after the start of construction of the project.

Substandard food in the kitchens at railway station

†2074. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the complaints regarding the preparation of substandard food in the kitchens at railway stations have been received for the last some time;

(b) if so, the steps taken for their redressal;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a scheme has been formulated to renovate these kitchens by spending Rs. 10 crores; and

(d) if so, whether the implementation of this scheme has started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) A few instances of preparation of food in unhygienic conditions in Railway's base kitchens were reported. In this regard a Committee was constituted by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, which has made certain recommendations for improvement of Railways' base kitchens. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have initiated action for renovation of these base kitchens.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi